

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204400
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 L-03 OES-07 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 SIG-02
H-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-02 INR-07
NSAE-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-07 EPA-04
NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05
/170 R

DRAFTED BY EB/TCA/MA:RSFARON/OES/ENP/EN:GKINTER:BST
APPROVED BY EB/TCA/MA:RKBANK
L/EB:JRCROOK
OES/OFA/OCA:GDALTON
IO/TRC:WDIAMANTI
D/LOS:GTAFT
USCG:DCHINTZE
DOT:SWALLACE
EUR/RPE:ADSENS
AF/I:LSHURTLEFF

-----081429Z 080780 /40

R 070138Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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PAGE 02 STATE 204400

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, SENV

SUBJECT: U.S. MARINE SAFETY LEGISLATION

REF: A) STATE 60283; B) STATE 66771 (NOTAL)

1. ON APRIL 26, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION REPORTED OUT A SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED VERSION OF SENATOR MAGNUSON'S BILL, S.682, TANKER AND VESSEL SAFETY ACT OF 1977. THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 204400

BILL HAD BEEN INTRODUCED PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OF MARCH 17. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES ON COMMERCE COMMITTEE ACTION AND ITS RELATION TO THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION (REF A), EMBASSY MAY USE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. BILL IS INTENDED BY ITS SPONSORS TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, INCLUDING U.S. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES IN IMCO. BILL INCLUDES A DECLARATION OF CONGRESSIONAL POLICY AGAINST IMPEDIMENT TO, OR INTERFERENCE WITH, THE RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE OR ANY RECOGNIZED LEGITIMATE USE OF THE HIGH SEAS; AND OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED ACTIVE UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING NAVIGATION, VESSEL SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. AS REPORTED, THE BILL INCLUDES A NUMBER OF PROVISIONS TO FACILITATE CONTINUATION OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES. IT EMPOWERS THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS IF THEY CAN BE SHOWN TO PROVIDE EQUIVALENT

PROTECTION; TO ACCEPT FOR PURPOSES OF THE LEGISLATION CERTIFICATIONS MADE UNDER AUTHORITY OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS PURSUANT TO TREATIES TO WHICH THE U.S. IS A PARTY; AND TO MODIFY REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS TO CONFORM TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES RATIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES.

3. IN GENERAL, THERE ARE FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE BILL AND THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS.

A) BOTH CALL FOR ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND CREW STANDARDS FOR ALL TANKERS CALLING AT U.S. PORTS.

B) BOTH WOULD REQUIRE DUAL RADAR SYSTEMS, COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEMS, SEGREGATED BALLAST AND INERT GAS SYSTEMS FOR ALL TANKERS OVER 20,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS. HOWEVER, THE BILL ADDITIONALLY REQUIRES CERTAIN OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS LONG-RANGE NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT NOT INCLUDED IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 204400

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL BECAUSE THEY ARE ALREADY, OR ARE SHORTLY TO BE, REQUIRED BY COAST GUARD REGULATIONS. NAVIGATION AND RADAR EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY THE BILL WOULD BE REQUIRED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30, 1979. SEGREGATED BALLAST, POSITION-FIXING EQUIPMENT, AND GAS INERTING SYSTEMS WILL BE REQUIRED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30, 1983.

C) BOTH CALL FOR DOUBLE BOTTOMS FOR ALL NEW TANKERS OVER 20,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS CALLING AT U.S. PORTS AFTER JUNE 30, 1983. UNDER THE BILL DOUBLE BOTTOMS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR VESSELS WHOSE CONSTRUCTION IS CONTRACTED FOR OR ACTUALLY COMMENCED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1978.

D) AS NOTED, BOTH PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF ALTERNATIVES OR SUBSTITUTE STANDARDS WHERE IT CAN BE SHOWN THAT THEY PROVIDE EQUIVALENT OR IMPROVED NAVIGATION ACCURACY, VESSEL SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

E) BOTH CALL FOR AN ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF ALL TANKERS ENTERING U.S. PORTS TO INSURE THEY MEET ALL ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND PROTECTION REGULATIONS. THE MAGNUSON BILL ADDITIONALLY REQUIRES A SPECIAL INSPECTION OF STRUCTURAL STRENGTH AND HULL INTEGRITY FOR ANY TANKER OVER 10 YEARS OF AGE.

F) BOTH CALL FOR IMPROVED CREW STANDARDS, INCLUDING LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS BY CLASS AND SIZE OF VESSEL, INCREASED TRAINING, WIDER USE OF SHIP SIMULATORS, AND INCREASED EMPHASIS ON DEMONSTRATION OF IMPORTANT SKILLS.

G) BOTH ALLOW MODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS OR STANDARDS TO CONFORM TO AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY, CONVENTION, AGREEMENT,

OR AMENDMENTS THERETO WHICH ARE RATIFIED BY THE U.S.

H. BOTH CALL FOR A MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION SYSTEM THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE NAMES OF TANKER OWNERS, ANY CHANGES IN VESSEL NAMES, AND HISTORIES OF ACCIDENTS OR SERIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 204400

MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS.

I) THE MAGNUSON BILL ALSO DEALS WITH PILOT STANDARDS, VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES, LIGHTERING, AND RESEARCH ON OCEAN POLLUTION, AREAS NOT COVERED IN THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL.

4. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THE LEGISLATION, BUT HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE ANY ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM.

B. PRESENTLY, THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN THE SENATE MAY ACT ON SENATOR MAGNUSON'S BILL. THE PROSPECTS OR TIMING OF ANY SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE ARE ALSO UNKNOWN.

6. POSTS SHOULD STRESS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION STILL INTENDS TO PURSUE INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF MARINE OIL POLLUTION AND IT IS WORKING TO ENSURE THAT ANY POSSIBLE LEGISLATION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS EFFORT AND WITH ALL U.S. PROPOSALS AND POSITIONS TO DATE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, WATER POLLUTION CONTROLS, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770162-0118
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 60283, 77 STATE 66771
Retention: 0
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2607045
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. MARINE SAFETY LEGISLATION
TAGS: EWWT, SENV
To: OTTAWA ATHENS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c970799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Declassified/Released
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22 May 2009
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